

Message Text

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TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: UIL CRISIS AND SECRETARY GENERAL VANNI

FROM LABOR ATTACHE

1. FOLLOWING INABILITY OF THREE POLITICAL COMPONENTS IN UIL TO COMPROMISE ON FACTORY COUNCIL ISSUE, THE ENTIRE SECRETARIAT RESIGNED. A VISIBLY DEPRESSED VANNI SPOKE WITH LABATT ABOUT THE SITUATION AND HIS PERSONAL PLANS.

2. VANNI HAS NOT BEEN TOUCHING BASE WITH THE UIL FACTIONS TO ESTIMATE THE BALANCE OF FORCES, BUT SAID HE WOULD DECIDE WHETHER TO PRESENT HIMSELF AS CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY GENERAL IN NEXT FEW DAYS. VANNI SAID HE WOULD ONLY RETURN AS SECRETARY GENERAL IF HIS POSITION WERE STRENGTHENED. HE DID NOT INTEND BEING A PRISONER OF THE POLITICAL FACTIONS AND REITERATED HIS COMMITMENT TO A UIL THAT WILL TAKE STEPS TOWARD BECOMING THAT ORGANIZATION WHICH COALESCES THE "LAY" FORCES AGAINST CATHOLIC POWER ON THE ONE HAND AND THE COMMUNISTS ON THE OTHER. IF TRADE UNION UNITY IS REALIZED, THIS THIRD FORCE COULD BE ALL IMPORTANT (IN THEORY AT LEAST).

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3. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT SOME PSDI (RAVECCA AND OTHERS) LEADERS IN THE UIL WERE MOVING CLOSER TO THE PSI FACTION VANNI CONTENDED THAT A PSI-PSDI ALLIANCE IN THE UIL WOULD NOT BE VIABLE AND A SPLIT WOULD DEVELOP WITHIN SIX MONTHS. FURTHERMORE THE PROBABLE PSI CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY GENERAL, RUFINO, WAS REALLY SUPPORTED ONLY BY RUFINO, ACCORDING TO VANNI. OTHER SOCIALISTS WOULD SOON SET OUT TO UNDERMINE HIM.

4. IN DISCUSSING THE IMMEDIATE ISSUE OF FACTORY COUNCILS AND THEIR COMPOSITION, VANNI POINTED OUT THAT THE UIL SHOULD DEFINE FACTORY COUNCILS IN A WAY TO MEET NEEDS OF UIL BUT ALSO TO ESTABLISH A MODEL FOR THE CISL AND CGIL, BOTH OF WHICH MUST COME TO GRIPS WITH THIS KEY ISSUE IN DEVELOPMENT OF LABOR UNITY. ACCORDING TO VANNI, BOTH CGIL AND CISL FAVOR MINORITY GUARANTEES ON FACTORY COUNCILS. A UIL COMPROMISE RESOLUTION MIGHT ENCOMPASS SECRET BALLOT ELECTION BY ALL WORKERS BUT WITH EACH VOTING FOR A NUMBER OF DELEGATES LESS THAN FACTORY COUNCIL TOTAL. THIS WOULD ASSURE MINORITY REPRESENTATION WITHOUT GIVING UNIONS THEMSELVES AUTOMATIC PRESENCE ON THE COUNCIL.

5. SPEAKING TO THE INTERNATIONAL EFFECT OF THE UIL CRISIS, VANNI SAID THAT HE WILL NOT ATTEND THE NOVEMBER 20 LONDON MEETING WHICH IS TO DISCUSS CGIL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ETUC. NOR WILL HE ATTEND NOVEMBER 24 ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. VANNI FEELS HIS ABSENCE MAY SERVE TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION CGIL ENTRY INTO ETUC, BUT HE ALSO CONVINCED THAT WITHIN A YEAR OR SO BOTH CGIL AND CHRISTIAN UNIONS WILL BE IN ETUC. THE ENGLISH BUT ALSO THE GERMANS, WHO HAVE ESTABLISHED DIRECT BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE CGIL ACCORDING TO VANNI, WILL SUPPORT THE CGIL BID.

6. COMMENT:

VANNI MAY WELL BE RECONFIRMED SECRETARY GENERAL BUT IT WILL BE WITH LESS POWER NOT MORE. FACT IS THAT SOCIALISTS ARE GOING TO EXERCISE MORE CLOUT IN THE UIL AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS SEEM TO BE IN AGREEMENT WITH THIS. BOTH SOCIALISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS --INDEED SOME REPUBLICANS--ARE DIS-

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SATISFIED WITH VANNI'S ALOOFNESS AND NO LONGER CONTENT WITH LEADERSHIP WHICH CONTROLS BY PROVIDING BALANCE BETWEEN SOCIALISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. ONE CERTAINTY REMAINS -- THE UIL IS NOT LIKELY TO BE DEPOLITICIZED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. FINA

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